

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LISBON 04595 171328Z

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8886

S E C R E T LISBON 4595

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJ: SECVISIT LISBON: CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN PATRICIO

REF: JERUSALEM 1491 (SECTO 162)

1. HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR BRIEF CHAT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PATRICIO DECEMBER 17 AT ANNUAL YEAR-END RECEPTION BY PRESIDENT THOMAZ FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS. I SAID THAT SECRETARY WOULD PREFER THAT DINNER PARTY TONIGHT NOT BE PROLONGED FOR FURTHER TALKS SINCE SCHEDULE HAS AMPLE TIME SET ASIDE FOR TALKS. PATRICIO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD. HE WENT ON TO ADD, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO TALK SINCE GOP CONSIDERS SECRETARY'S VISIT CRUCIAL. I FEEL OPENING HAS NONETHELESS BEEN CREATED FOR SECRETARY TO EXCUSE HIMSELF AT REASONABLE HOUR WITH REFERENCE TO THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION TOMORROW.

2. AMPLIFYING ON CRUCIAL NATURE OF TALKS, PATRICIO WENT ON TO SAY THAT GOP WOULD NOT BE BARGAINING. "WE ARE ASKING ONLY FOR WHAT WE ABSOLUTELY NEED." HE ADDED THAT PORTUGUESE PUBLIC OPINION REQUIRED THAT RESULTS OF CURRENT TALKS AND NEGOTIATIONS HOLD SUBSTANTIAL COMPENSATION FOR PORTUGAL, NOT ONLY FOR AZORES BASE AS SUCH, BUT FOR CURRENT PETROLEUM SHORTAGE. PORTUGUESE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO WAIT IN LONG LINES FOR GASOLINE, HE SAID, ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS HARDSHIP BROUGHT ON THEM BY USE OF AZORES

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FOR RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL.

3. PATRICIO STATED THAT SITUATION IN AFRICA HAS BECOME FURTHER COMPLICATED SINCE HIS CONTACT WITH SECRETARY IN BRUSSELS. HE SAID THAT WHILE EARLY REPORTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST PORTUGUESE IN ZAIRE HAD PROVED TO BE EXAGGERATED, GOP HAD RECEIVED RECENT REPORT THAT LIBYAN COL. QUADDAFI WAS BRINGING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON MOBUTU TO TAKE ARMED ACTION AGAINST CABINDA. THIS HAD CREATED SITUATION OF UTMOST CONCERN FOR PORTUGAL AND GOP WOULD BE LOOKING TO US TO ASSIST IN THIS CRISIS.

4. THIS MESSAGE WILL BE PROVIDED TO SECRETARY'S PARTY ON ARRIVAL LISBON.
POST

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NNN

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